

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:  
R. ABOVITZ, et al.

Serial No.: 09/978,599

Filed: October 16, 2001

For: DIGITAL MINIMALLY  
INVASIVE SURGERY SYSTEM

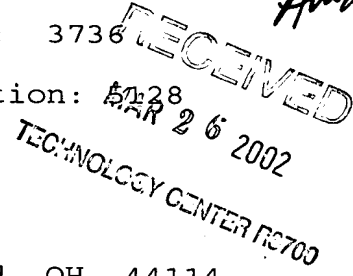
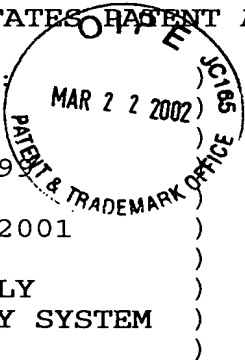
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L. Pan/C  
8-9-02  
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Amdt A

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT A

Assistant Commissioner  
For Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

In the Claims:

Please add new claim 39 as follows:

39. (New) A method of implementing a computer-implemented procedure, the method comprising:

providing an integrated computer which receives a digital medium and which renders the digital medium inoperative;

opening a software-integrated disposable kit and removing a digital medium with application specific software and any associated elements;

inserting the digital medium into the integrated computer;

performing the procedure;  
deactivating or encrypting the digital medium against reuse in the integrated computer;

removing the digital medium from the integrated computer.

REMARKS

This amendment is presented to claim the present inventive techniques more generically. Although the preferred embodiment for using this invention is in a